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Report Name: Shenzhen Institutes New COVID-19 Measures for Imports of Meat and Seafood

Country: China - Peoples Republic of

Post: Guangzhou ATO

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Report Highlights:

On August 18, 2020, the city of Shenzhen in South China imposed new COVID-19 handling and testing requirements for imports of frozen meat and seafood. There is concern that these new measures, which are inconsistent with international guidelines, could contribute to delays at Shenzhen ports and dampen consumer demand for imported meat and seafood. An unofficial translation of the new measure is provided herein.

Shenzhen Institutes New COVID-19 Measures for Imports of Meat and Seafood:

On August 18, 2020, in what appears to be a response to a reported finding of COVID-19 on imported chicken from Brazil in the South China city of Shenzhen, local authorities imposed new handling and testing requirements for imports of frozen meat and seafood. There is concern that these new measures could not just contribute to product backlogs at Shenzhen ports, but also cause consumers to shy away from imported meat and seafood. (Note: the measure does not mention Shenzhen ports by name.)

Under the newly imposed requirements, which were issued by Shenzhen's COVID-19 Epidemic Prevention and Control Headquarters Office, imports of frozen meat and seafood that will be exclusively sold, processed, or stored in Shenzhen will – after clearing customs – move to a centralized cold storage facility where the shipment will be disinfected and tested for COVID-19. The local government will pay for disinfection, testing, and storage for a certain period. After disinfection and testing negative, the shipment will be issued an exit certificate and allowed to enter local commerce. Of note, containers of imported meat and seafood products that are moving to other locations outside of Shenzhen are not subject to this requirement.

With only one centralized cold storage facility, importers are concerned about its capacity to efficiently test and sanitize incoming containers. Additional cold storage facilities are reportedly needed to get around this critical capacity issue. Otherwise, there is concern about container backlogs developing at Shenzhen ports.

These new COVID-19 measures, which are inconsistent with WHO/FAO COVID-19 guidance, were announced after the Shenzhen government reportedly detected COVID-19 on a sample taken from a shipment of Brazilian chicken wings. Meantime, the handful of recent COVID-19 human cases in Shenzhen, which are wholly unrelated to the Brazil chicken incident, has likely contributed to this overly restrictive response.

An unofficial translation of the new inspection and handling procedures follows below.

[Unofficial Translation]

Announcement on Strengthening the Prevention and Control of Covid-19 Epidemic in Imported Frozen Meat and Seafood Products by Shenzhen Covid-19 Epidemic Prevention and Control Headquarter Office

In order to better prevent and control the epidemic in our city, to minimize the risk of epidemic transmissions, and to protect the life and health of the people to the greatest extent, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the “Decision on the Prevention and Control of the Current Covid-19 Epidemic, Ensuring the Health and Safety of People” by the Health and Safety Standing Committee of the Shenzhen People's Congress, hereby announce the following measures to strengthen the epidemic prevention and control in imported frozen meat products and seafood products (hereinafter refer as imported frozen foods):

1. Starting from August 18, 2020, Shenzhen will establish a centralized supervision warehouse for imported frozen foods (hereinafter refer as the centralized supervision warehouse). Imported frozen foods that are released from various ports in Shenzhen (after customs clearance), and would be stored, sold, and/or processed within Shenzhen, then those imported frozen foods must be sent to the centralized supervision warehouse for outer packaging sterilization and nucleic acid sample testing.
2. The importer of these imported frozen foods that enter the centralized supervision warehouse must fill in the information such as importer, customs declaration information, vehicle and driver information, and the downstream sales record as required.
3. Only after external packaging sterilization, passing the nucleic acid test, and obtaining the "Shenzhen Imported Frozen Meat and Seafood Products Exit Certificate" (Exit Certificate), will these imported frozen foods be allowed to remove from the centralized supervision warehouse.
4. Starting from August 18, 2020, those companies that are involved in the storage, sales, and processing of imported frozen foods in Shenzhen must obtain the "Exit Certificate". Starting from August 18, 2020, imported frozen foods that are cleared customs from various ports in Shenzhen, must obtain the “Exit Certificate”, otherwise, they would not be allowed to store, sell, or process in Shenzhen.
5. To ensure efficient and orderly operation of the centralized supervision warehouse, all containers must go through online reservation system before entering the centralized supervision warehouse. The "Exit Certificate" can be searched and viewed online. Details about the online reservation system and online reviewing system will be announced separately by Shenzhen Agricultural Market Epidemic Prevention and Control Working Group.
6. Once the imported frozen foods in the centralized supervision warehouse pass the nucleic acid test, the importer will be notified via SMS to remove their products (from the centralized supervision warehouse), and the owner shall pick up the products within the time frame specified in the SMS

notification. The products must be move in/out of the centralized supervision warehouse in container load, products cannot be separated from container and moved out in batches.

7. The government will be responsible for the cost of out packaging disinfection, nucleic acid sample testing and storage of the imported frozen foods within specified time frame in the centralized supervision warehouse. If the importer failed to provide accurate information as required, the above-mentioned expenses shall be borne by the importer. The importer shall be responsible for the storage fees of extended stay in the centralized supervision warehouse.

8. If the nucleic acid test result is found positive, the related batch of imported frozen foods shall be destroyed in accordance with relevant regulations.

9. For those who violate the provisions of this circular, such as those imported frozen foods that should have moved into the centralized supervision warehouse, but do not move in; or imported frozen foods that are stored, sold and processed (in Shenzhen) without obtaining the "Exit Certificate"; and those failed to provide information as required; (the importers) will be investigated and punished in accordance with relevant laws and regulations. These violations will also be included in the credibility system.

Address of the Shenzhen Imported Frozen Foods Centralized Supervision Warehouse: Youxin Food City, No. 78 Pingji Avenue, Lilang Community, Nanwan Street, Longgang District, Shenzhen, Business Inquiry: Mr. Xu, 13686870918; Miss Liu, 18617021808; Reservation Tel: 0755-89236669, 13537502910 .

Hereby announced.

Shenzhen Covid-19 Epidemic Prevention and Control Headquarter Office

August 17, 2020

深圳市新冠肺炎疫情防控指挥部办公室关于加强进口冷冻肉制品和水产品疫情防控有关事项的通告

为进一步做好我市新冠肺炎疫情防控工作，最大限度阻断疫情传播风险，最大程度保障人民群众生命健康安全，根据《深圳市人民代表大会常务委员会关于依法全力做好当前新型冠状病毒肺炎疫情防控工作切实保障人民群众生命健康安全的决定》有关规定，现就加强进口冷冻肉制品和水产品（以下简称进口冻品）疫情防控有关事项通告如下：

一、从2020年8月18日起，深圳市设立进口冻品集中监管仓（以下简称集中监管仓）。从深圳各港口码头提柜离港并在深圳储存、销售、加工的进口冻品，在储存、销售、加工前须进入集中监管仓进行外包装消杀和抽样核酸检测。

二、进入集中监管仓的进口冻品货主，须按要求如实填报货主、报关单、车辆、司机、货物流向等信息。

三、进入集中监管仓的进口冻品，经外包装消杀和抽样核酸检测合格，并取得《深圳市进口冷冻肉制品和水产品出库证明》后方可出库。

四、从2020年8月18日起，深圳市从事进口冻品储存、销售、加工的经营单位，须查验《深圳市进口冷冻肉制品和水产品出库证明》；对于2020年8月18日起从深圳各港口码头提柜离港的进口冻品，凡未取得该证明的，不得在深圳储存、销售、加工。

五、为保障集中监管仓高效有序运行，集中监管仓入库实行网上预约，《深圳市进口冷冻肉制品和水产品出库证明》可网上查询，具体预约、查询方式由深圳市农贸市场疫情防控工作专班另行发布。

六、集中监管仓进口冻品经抽样核酸检测合格的，以短信方式通知货主提货，货主应在通知规定的时限内提货。提货须“整柜入库、整柜出库”，不能分拆多批次提货。

七、进口冻品在集中监管仓的外包装消杀、抽样核酸检测、规定时限内仓储费用由政府承担。经查实不按要求如实填报信息的，上述费用由货主承担。超期提货所产生的仓储费用，由货主承担。

八、进口冻品抽样核酸检测结果为阳性的，所对应批次的进口冻品按有关规定作无害化处理。

九、对于违反本通告规定，存在进口冻品应进入集中监管仓而不进入、储存销售加工未取得《深圳市进口冷冻肉制品和水产品出库证明》的进口冻品、未按要求如实填报信息等行为的，将按照相关法律法规严肃查处，并纳入征信系统。

深圳市进口冻品集中监管仓地址：深圳市龙岗区南湾街道上李朗社区平吉大道78号友信食品城，业务咨询：徐先生，13686870918；刘小姐，18617021808；预约电话：0755—89236669、13537502910。

特此通告。

深圳市新冠肺炎疫情防控指挥部办公室
2020年8月17日

Attachments:

No Attachments.